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SUBJECT Chinese Communist Treatment of Japanese POW's  
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Japanese POW's in China are primarily assigned to positions in various military organizations, mines and factories. Since the building of a regular Communist national defense force in May 1950, many Japanese in the artillery and chemical units have been replaced by Chinese, although ordnance, medical and staff personnel are still retained by military organizations. Those relieved from military units have been sent to Manchuria and North China for other types of training.

The Japanese in China are not permitted to exercise managerial authority. For example, a Japanese who has been made head of a hospital can only plan and distribute duties among the persons assigned to the hospital, but he has no part in the management of personnel, finance, and other matters which are usually handled by a Chinese Communist military representative. Only a small number of Japanese have been permitted to join the Chinese Communist Party; Japanese as a rule are excluded from Chinese Communist political and social organizations.

The Japanese are well cared for, receive rations comparable to Chinese Communists of the same rank, and are treated politely by their Chinese superiors. They are not required, because of their inability to speak Chinese, to attend periodic political meetings where attendance is normally obligatory for all personnel. Their actions and thought, however, are under constant surveillance, and should anyone be found deficient in this regard, he is likely to be admonished by the political worker. They are not permitted to talk with anyone except those who are associated with them in the performance of their duties. Since the establishment of the Chinese Communist Government in Peiping, the Japanese have been permitted to marry by first obtaining the approval of their superiors; however, they are permitted to marry Chinese women only in very exceptional circumstances.

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4. Higher-ranking Japanese POW's, after their transfer from the Soviet Union to China, have repeatedly warned other Japanese that they must understand their position. These POW's state that the Japanese must work hard and gain the understanding and sympathy of the Chinese to maintain their existence. A small number of Japanese feel that because Japan once over-ran China they deserved to be enslaved by the Chinese. Most of the Japanese, as a result of their experience in China, have concluded that they will have to live in China forever. All of the Japanese fear that when their services are no longer needed by the Chinese Communists they will be returned to the Soviet Union or that they may be used against a future war with Japan.